Art Creation & Reflection – Sculpture, Painting, or Drawing

Introduction

Art is a universal language that has stayed with mankind since the days of the early men. They were the ones who would explain their hunting expeditions by drawing various pictures of weapons and animals on the walls of the caves. Art has gained such a universality that transcends culture, time, and geography. A wide range of human expression gets encompassed via art in different forms, may it be music, literature, dance, digital media, or different kinds of sketches and paintings. At the depth of all sometimes stays true, that is, art actively reflects the workings of the inner soul and human experiences. It clearly depicts our emotions, struggles, beliefs, sorrows, and even our triumphs. Throughout the history of time, it has been an instrument that serves numerous purposes like a tool for communicating, protesting in different forms, as a source of aesthetic beauty, and all in all a mirror that reflects society. Thus, art stays as a pivotal force in shaping and reflecting the universe around us.

Inspiration Piece

My inspiration piece is Michaelangelo's famous fresco of 'The Creation of Man' on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City, built between the years 1508 to 1512 (Sistine Chapel, 2023). This picture was built during the time of the High Renaissance and is exemplary of the brilliance of human anatomy and humanism in Western art. In this fresco, one can see the depiction of a biblical scene where one finds God giving life to Adam, the first man he ever created. The art shows the Almighty surrounded by angels, while his right hand is reaching out to Adam. He is shown surrounded by many angels, while Adam is reclining on Earth and also

extending his left hand in response. The viewers find both of their fingers are about to meet symbolizing the moment where life got infused into Adam via the divine spark.

My Art Piece

The title of my art is "God helps those who help themselves". This is a sketch by me that shows a girl who accidentally fell down the cliff of a mountain but surprisingly found a tree branch to support herself and climb back. The girl is shown struggling but does not give up on herself. This somehow proves the fact that one never knows what he or she will find in life, but instead of hoping the Almighty to help him or her always in every situation, the person must not lose hope and try to pull him or herself out of any difficult situation.

Connection

Thematically, the picture that inspired me shows the all-powerful nature of God. He is the Holy Father who had given life to Adam, the first man on Earth. The fresco by Michaelangelo captures that moment when divine energy infused life with his best creation. My sketch, on the other hand, is thematically representing one of life's values of helping oneself instead of leaving it all to God, because, at the end of the day, God helps only those who help themselves. It might seem strange how both the paintings align together, However, apart from understanding that Michaelangelo's fresco depicts a biblical incident, I have come up with a different interpretation. The fact that one can find in the painting of Michaelangelo, that while God has completely extended his hand, to touch Adam, who is representing human beings, he on the other hand, has curled up his finger to maintain a certain gap between both his and God's fingers. This fact made me analyze the painting in a different light. I felt that though God is completely merciful and always ready to help us, it is humans who instead of doing their part, sit idle praying that one day

God would help them. I felt the picture might have had a different look if Adam too, would have extended his hand to accept the blessing of life from Almighty. Thus, I have created my picture based on his interpretation.

The mediums of both paintings are definitely different. One is Michaelangelo's famous fresco of ‘The Creation of Man’ is created on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. My sketch, on the other hand, is done simply on paper with the help of a pencil. There is a huge difference in the formal elements of design in both works of art. Michaelangelo, being a scholarly artist, has used variations in lines, shapes, and forms thoroughly (Jacobus & Martin, 2022, p.62). All his figures have different expressions, even the hair strands or the laces in the clothes depict a separate story. The anatomy of the figures depicts the difference in position, power, and elegance. The colors used there are the best in quality and techniques, which brings forth the texture of the objects in the fresco, thus giving them life. My sketch, on the other hand, is simply done on a piece of white sheet, in amateur hands. I have yet tried to use different patterns in lines and textures to bring meaning to the background.

References

Jacobus, L. A., & Martin, F. D. (2022). The humanities through the arts. McGraw-Hill Education.

Sistine Chapel. (2023). *Michelangelo's Creation of Adam in the Sistine Chapel*. Www.thesistinechapel.org. https://www.thesistinechapel.org/the-creation-of-adam